## 10/1/23

**Friends**

“The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone.’”   
Genesis 2:18a (NIV)

1. Layers of Friendship
2. **Be friendly to everyone.**
3. **Casual friends come from circumstances.**
4. **Close friends come by choice.**

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

1. Types of People to Avoid for Close Friends
2. **People who like to argue. Proverbs 20:3**
3. **People who gossip. Proverbs 20:19**
4. **People who flatter. Proverbs 29:5**
5. **People who have a temper. Proverbs 22:24**
6. **People engaged in sexual sin.**

“When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. But I wasn’t talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don’t even eat with such people.” 1 Corinthians 5:9-11 (NLT)

1. Types of People to Choose for Close Friends
   * 1. **Choose close friends who BUILD YOU UP SPIRITUALLY.**

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up…” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

* + 1. **Choose close friends who will HAVE YOUR BACK IN TOUGH TIMES.**

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.” Proverbs. 17:17 (NIV)

* + 1. **Choose close friends who MAKE YOU BETTER.**

“Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” Proverbs 13:20 (ESV)

1. How Do I Find A Great Friend? BE A GREAT FRIEND.
2. **Be NICE.**

“A cheerful look brings joy to the heart…” Proverbs 15:30 (NLT)

1. **Ask GOOD QUESTIONS and be a GOOD LISTENER.**

“Don’t just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too…” Philippians 2:4 (TLB)

1. **Be LOYAL.**

“There are “friends” who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24 (TLB)

* **Show up.**
* **Don’t talk about them behind their back.**
* **Speak the truth in love.**

1. **LOVE HARD.**

*“Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.” Romans 15:7 (NLT)*

“You go…I go.” Backdraft

Keep the conversation going…

1. What characteristics do you look for in a friend?
2. What differences have good friends made in your life?
3. How would you describe the friendship you have with Jesus?
4. If you could make a just one change in any of your friendships, what would it be?